According to the information furnished by Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU), presently 104 Conventional/Deemed Universities are offering programmes through distance mode.

(b) and (c) The Distance Education Council (DEC), a statutory body under the IGNOU Act, 1985 for coordination and determination of standards in the distance education system in the country, invited proposals in January, 2004 from Open Universities and Distance Education Directorates/Correspondence Course Institutes of dual mode Universities/Deemed Universities for approval of their programmes. Out of 50 Institutions that submitted proposals in this regard, the programmes of 10 Universities/Institutions have been approved by DEC. While 24 Universities have been asked to resubmit the material for further review, the programmes of 3 Universities have been derecognized by DEC. Rest of the Universities have been reminded to expedite their proposals.

Technical and Paramedical Programmes under Allahabad Agriculture Institute

2724. SHRI S.S. CHANDRAN: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Allahabad Agriculture Institute (Deemed University) in Uttar Pradesh has been conducting various technical and Para-medical Programmes under distance education system claiming that these are recognised by Government; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) and (b) There are reports that the Allahabad Agricultural Institute (AAI) (Deemed University), Allahabad is offering various technical and Para-medical programmes through distance education mode in different parts of the country. As per the UGC's Guidelines for deemed universities prior approval of the Commission and relevant statutory authorities, including the Distance Education Council, is required for conducting professional courses through the distance mode. Neither the UGC nor the Distance Education Council has accorded the approval to the AAI for conducting professional courses through distance mode.